
LETTER FROM EX-PRESIDENT HARRISON.

JANUARY 4, 1901.—Referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed.

Mr. LODGE presented the following

COPY OF A LETTER OF BENJAMIN HARRISON, EX-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, FAVORING ADDITIONAL TREATIES AND LAWS TO PROTECT THE UNCIVILIZED RACES OF THE NEW HEBRIDES AND CENTRAL AFRICA AGAINST THE IMPORTATION OF INTOXICANTS, OPIUM, AND FIREARMS.

LETTER FROM EX-PRESIDENT HARRISON.

In response to a request from the Reform Bureau for support of the Lodge resolution declaring for additional treaties and laws to protect uncivilized races against intoxicants, opium, and firearms, and the Gillett New Hebrides bill, which provides an installment of such protection for all Pacific islands not under the government of any uncivilized power, the following letter has been received from ex-President Harrison:

JANUARY 1, 1901.

MY DEAR SIR: I have received your letter of the 28th ultimo, and in reply I beg to say that I have made it a rule not to sign petitions of appeal to members of Congress for legislation. I have expressed myself upon the subject in a public address in the paragraph to which your letter refers. It does seem to me as if the Christian nations of the world ought to be able to make their contact with the weaker peoples of the earth beneficent and not destructive, and I give to your efforts to secure helpful legislation my warmest sympathy.

Very truly, yours,

BENJ. HARRISON.

Rev. WILBUR F. CRAFTS,
Washington, D. C.

The public utterance referred in the letter is the following from ex-President Harrison's address, as honorary president of the Ecumenical Missionary Conference which met in New York last spring.

"The men who, like Paul, have gone to heathen lands with the message, 'we seek not yours, but you,' have been hindered by those who coming after have reversed the message. Rum and other cor-

rupting agencies come in with our boasted civilization, and the feeble races wither before the hot breath of the white man's vice."

The Reform Bureau also presented a petition in support of Lodge resolution and Gillett New Hebrides bill — yards long containing the indorsements of societies and individuals in 23 States, and also from the District of Columbia and Hawaii, including the missionary boards of the Methodist and Reformed Dutch churches, and many American missionaries at work in foreign lands. The petition is not for these bills specifically nor for the United States alone, but asks all the governments that have twice united, in treaties of 1890 and 1899, in protecting natives of Africa against intoxicants, to take further action separately and together to so protect all uncivilized races as recommended by the President. The petition is to be withdrawn and carried by a deputation to all the prominent governments of the world after Congress adjourns.